



Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, Report

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (8.16 pm): Before I get to what I had prepared, I might respond to the previous speaker. Firstly, he spoke about the extra police at the new Caloundra South Police Station, which the minister came up and announced recently. They proudly talked about these extra new detectives for Caloundra South, failing to acknowledge that they were just detectives who were moved from Caloundra station to Caloundra South. The CPIU that used to work for me on the Sunshine Coast got told not long before the announcement that they were to pack their bags as they were moving to Caloundra South to work out of there—

Mr Hunt: Ten extras.

Mr PURDIE: Not detectives from the CPIU. The same detectives from the CPIU at Caloundra are now working out of the Caloundra South Police Station. They are just moved detectives, not extra detectives.

This takes me to his next point about how the Premier could not explain the cost of the jets that he and the minister used to fly around the state in tandem during their self-promotion tour. I am pretty sure the Premier should have expected he was going to get asked that question, seeing the interest in that issue from not only the media but also taxpayers across Queensland. To suggest that the Premier could not have got the answer to that question does not pass the pub test.

I return to where I wanted to start. I want to thank Commissioner Gollschewski and his executive leadership team who attended to answer questions of the committee for making themselves available, as well as all the other QPS officers in the background who no doubt packaged up a lot of that information. Going back to the cost of the private jets, we know that the commissioner, who is ultimately responsible for QGAir, would have had that information at his fingertips. The Premier would have had the cost of those jets available to him had he asked the question. I assume that if he had asked that question he would have been given that answer and he could have done that a few days prior. Thanks to the commissioner, he did answer the question and revealed that the cost to taxpayers for that self-promotion tour around the state was almost \$170,000.

There are still some questions to be answered that we never got to the bottom of. One of them is why in the manifest that was received by the opposition under an RTI the details of passengers on that jet were redacted. The commissioner admitted that two of those passengers were Minister Healy, a current minister, and Minister Crawford, a former minister, but we never got to the bottom of why or how the minister decided to redact that information from the public in an RTI document. I would suggest that a minister using taxpayer money to fly in one of two private jets would be information that the public is entitled to hear. There was an answer at the time that maybe the manifest was not necessarily correct, which is in breach of CASA guidelines. Although we did get a lot of answers on the day, and I thank the commissioner for that, there are still a lot of questions unanswered.

After years of this government misleading, or potentially misleading, this parliament on police numbers—the minister also misled Queensland police officers not only at the last election but also at the election before that when he promised 535 police officers and by 2020 had failed to meet that commitment by over 100; he doubled down to another commitment of 1,450—we found out at estimates from the commissioner that, as of a few weeks ago, the minister and this government are 1,147 short of their commitment, increasing police numbers by only 303. I asked the minister at the time does he admit that that was a broken promise, most importantly a broken promise to our Queensland police officers across the state who are fighting a crime crisis, particularly a youth crime crisis, with both hands tied behind their back, thanks to the weaker laws of this government. The minister refused to apologise to our police for yet another broken promise.

What we know now in this place and what communities across Queensland know, and our frontline police know—in Goondiwindi and across Queensland they are operating often at 50 per cent capacity, on skeleton crews—is that this government cannot be trusted when it comes to any further commitments on police numbers in Queensland.

It was also uncovered on the day that victims' details, by a systemic issue—a failure of the system potentially, not of any wrongdoing by the police, in that a QPRIME button is left unchecked—have potentially been given to offenders in court documents. Since that time, the police have identified at least a number of DV victims and other victims, and again the minister would not apologise for that breach.